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Customer No.: 7055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Wolfgang RUF et al. Confirmation No.: 3688

Appln. No. : 09/978,041 Group Art Unit 1731

Filed : October 17, 2002 Examiner: E. J. Hug

For : LAMELLA OF A HEADBOX OF A PAPER, CARDBOARD, OR TISSUE MACHINE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Box Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

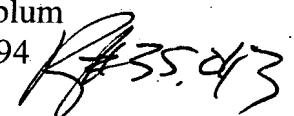
Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on February 26, 2004, and to the Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application.

In this regard, Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references of record. However, Applicants further wish to clarify that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and the basis for patentability of these claims is based upon the totality of the features recited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments about the above, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Wolfgang RUF et al.


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May 4, 2004
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